

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to distinguish the invention over the prior art of record. Claims 10-20 have been withdrawn from further consideration. The specification has been amended to correct minor informalities. Accordingly, claims 1-9 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1-7 are independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments do not add new matter to the application and are fully supported by the specification. Support for the amendments may be found at least in Figure 3 and at page 7, lines 16-22.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,817,917 issued to Kado, *et al.* ("Kado"). Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 1 and 7 overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection for at least the following reasons.

In order for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to be proper, a single reference must disclose every claimed feature. To be patentable, a claim need only recite a single novel feature that is not disclosed in the cited reference. Thus, the failure of a cited reference to disclose one or more claimed features renders the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection improper.

Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a sealant formed on opposing surfaces of the first substrate and the second substrate around an outer circumferential area of the first substrate and the second substrate to seal the first substrate and the second substrate,

wherein the sealant is formed of regions having a first width of substantially the same size and regions having a second width, wherein the second width is greater than the first width, the sealant having a substantially uniform thickness

Applicants respectfully submit that Kado does not teach such features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of claim 1. Claims 3-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 7 is allowable for reasons similar to claim 1. Claims 8-9 depend from claim 7 and are allowable at least for this reason. Since none of the other prior art of record discloses or suggests all the features of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 7, and all the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kado. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 6 are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 6.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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